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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Tatsuya KONDOH et al.

Group Art Unit: 2831

Appln. No. : 10/050,168

Examiner: Jinhee J. LEE

Filed : January 18, 2002

For : WIRING SYSTEM FOR INTERCONNECTING VEHICLE-MOUNTED
ELECTRONIC DEVICES THROUGH A WIRING HARNESS

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF INTERVIEW

Commissioner of Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street S.
Customer Window, Mail Stop Amendment
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir :

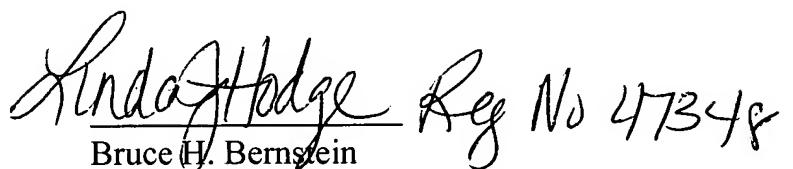
In response to the Examiner Interview Summary Form given to Applicants' attorney on August 10, 2004, setting a one month period for filing a statement of the substance of the interview to expire on September 10, 2004, Applicants submit the following remarks:

Examiner Jinhee J. Lee and Applicants' attorney, Linda J. Hodge, conducted a personal interview on August 10, 2004 to discuss the Official Action issued March 1, 2004 and the response thereto filed on July 1, 2004. During the interview, the claims were discussed and compared to the prior art applied by the Examiner in the rejections, *i.e.*, PARKS et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,239,445). In particular, Applicants' attorney pointed out

that the PARKS et al. patent fails to disclose a main harness connector and a sub harness connector that are mutually engageable as recited in amended claims 4, 9, and 12, or a first and second main harness, a first and second sub harness, and first and second end connectors as recited in amended claim 10. However, the Examiner stated that she takes the position that the phrase "mutually engageable" is being broadly read to include the pins on either side of the connector 104 in the PARKS et al. device, and that the current claim language does not require two separate connectors that may be connected and disconnected to connect and disconnect the main harnesses and the sub harnesses. No agreement was reached.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Tatsuya KONDOH et al.


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September 8, 2004
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